

Message Text

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S E C R E T LONDON 19655

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: SALT CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 285699; LONDON 19334

1. IN CONVERSATION AT FCO WITH ACDA COUNSELOR YARMOLINSKY, PATRICK MOBERLY RAISED DECEMBER 7 QUADRI-PARTITE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF SALT. MOBERLY OBSERVED HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF SECRETARY VANCE DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL ON DECEMBER 7 CURRENT STATE OF SALT III PRINCIPLES. ALTHOUGH ALLIES HAD BEEN KEPT INFORMED ON OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE NEGOTIATION, PRINCIPLES REMAINED A FUZZY AREA, AND ONE WHICH HAD IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EUROPEANS. HAD THERE, FOR INSTANCE, BEEN ANY PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING US-USSR JOINT TEXT OF PRINCIPLES OR WERE THE TWO SIDES TOO FAR APART FOR THAT? WOULD END PRODUCT BE ESSENTIALLY TWO UNILATERAL STATEMENTS GLUED TOGETHER AND CALLED PRINCIPLES FOR SALT III, OR SO GENERAL AS TO MAKE LITTLE OR NO DIFFERENCE ON SHAPE OF NEXT NEGOTIATION. ADMITTING THAT HE WAS IN WORST CASE SCENARIO COUNTRY, MOBERLY SAID THAT US AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE US FBS AND FRENCH AND BRITISH FORCES IN PRINCIPLES WITHOUT COMPARABLE SOVIET CONCESSION WOULD SHATTER ALLIED COHESION.
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SION. HE NOTED SUCH AN AWFUL TURN OF EVENTS WAS OF COURSE HIGHLY UNLIKELY BUT SUGGESTED BRIEFING BY SECRETARY VANCE WOULD DO MUCH TO REDUCE EUROPEAN ANXIETY.

2. AS WILBERFORCE HAD DONE ON MONDAY, MOBERLY MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF TRILATERAL TALKS IF FRENCH DECIDE NOT TO

PARTICIPATE. HE SAID HMG WAS CONSIDERING THAT EVENTU-
ALITY BUT OBVIOUSLY WOULD NOT BE FACED WITH DECISION
UNTIL AFTER DECEMBER 7.

3. COMMENT. BRITISH REMAIN INTENSELY INTERESTED IN
SMALLEST DETAILS OF SALT NEGOTIATION, ESPECIALLY THOSE
WHICH COULD AFFECT THEM. THUS, FROM HMG POINT OF VIEW,
THERE CANNOT BE TOO MUCH US-UK CONSULTATION ON THIS
SUBJECT. MOREOVER, BRITISH CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT
BECAUSE OF SPECIAL NUCLEAR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US
THEY SHOULD REMAIN CLEARLY FIRST AMONG MAJOR EUROPEAN
EQUALS IN RECEIVING SPECIFIC AND FREQUENT BILATERAL
SALT BRIEFINGS. THEY ARE SATISFIED WITH THE
ADMINISTRATION'S RECORD SO FAR. BUT WE DO THINK WE
SHOULD BE CAREFUL THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH FRG DO NOT
CREEP AHEAD OF THOSE WITH UK AND WE NOTE PAUL WARNKE'S
AGREEMENT TO STOP IN BONN ON DECEMBER 2. GOING ON
PAST RECORD, HMG WILL NO DOUBT HEAR ACCOUNT OF THOSE
TALKS FROM GERMANS. WE WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT
WE BE AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF BRITISH ON US-FRG DECEMBER 2
BILATERAL WHICH WILL INEVITABLY BE PART OF BACKDROP TO
DECEMBER 7 MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION.

4. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO PARIS AND BONN.

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